

tainers, the formation of molds caused a high mortality among both larvæ and pupæ. Nests fully exposed on a shelf or table remained free from molds although precautions were necessarily taken against the predatory activities of ants.

The inverted position of the nest seemed not to interfere with the more or less normal development of the young.

By virtue of the few precautions mentioned, it was found practicable to rear adult *Polistes* from eggs, thus entirely supplanting the natural relations between adult and brood. Although the trick of rearing *Polistes* is of no great consequence, the possibility of supplanting the adults may lead to further investigations on their social conduct.—ALBRO TILTON GAUL.

### BOOK NOTICE

*Introducing Insects, A Book for Beginners.* By James Needham, with illustrations by Ellen Edmonson. The Jaques Cattell Press, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1940.  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$  inches. vi + 129 pp., illus. \$1.50 postpaid.

This is a slim, attractively bound, well printed volume by a well-known entomologist whose writings always command respect, and attention. In it, Dr. Needham refrains from "humanizing" his subjects and also from treating them in journalistic style, which methods are commonly used by writers in attempting to popularize insects. Instead he introduces the insects as they really are, in simple language free of technicalities, and his examples are all species that one meets within everyday life in the home, in our possessions, in our food, and in our rambles in fields and along roadsides.

In addition to sections on butterflies, dragonflies, common caterpillars, leaf-eating beetles, mosquitoes, insects that eat our food, etc., there are sections devoted to collecting and rearing insects, and to the importance and pleasure of studying them.

It is a good book for the young or old beginner in entomology and for the citizen of any age who is inquisitive enough to want to know something reliable about the creatures with which he comes in contact at various times during his lifetime, and the numerous illustrations in the text add to its merit.—H. B. W.